What 2020 Census Results Tell Us About Persisting Problems with Separate Questions on Race and Ethnicity in the Decennial Census

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Race and Ethnicity Research

for the 2020 Census

2020 Census: Two Separate Questions Design

orig orig	TE: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic in and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic ins are not races. iis person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
	No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
	Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
	Yes, Puerto Rican
	Yes, Cuban
	Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for
	example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

- Extensive research and outreach over past decade, with two groundbreaking national studies, on how to improve the decennial census collection of race and ethnicity information
- Findings showed a combined race and ethnicity question with multiple detailed checkboxes and a dedicated Middle Eastern and North African category is optimal design for improving race and ethnicity data
- Determining decennial census content is an extensive undertaking, involving research and external partner engagement, and approval from U.S. Office of Management and Budget and U.S. Congress

rate	Questions Design
	at is this person's race? k
	White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. $\overrightarrow{\mathbf{F}}$
	Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haltian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. 🕝
	American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.
	Chinese
	Asian Indian
	Other Asian – Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.
	Some other race – Print race or origin.

2015 National Content Test Optimal Design

	WHITE - Provide d	etails b	elow.		
	German		Irish		English
	☐ Italian	П	Polish		French
	Print, for example, 5	Scottish	, Norwegian, D	utch, e	tc. g
		Ш		Ш	
	HISPANIC, LATING	O, OR S		vid e de	tails below.
	Mexican or Mexican American		Puerto Rican	П	Cuban
	Salvadoran		Dominican	П	Colombian
	Print, for example, (Guatem	alan, Spaniard,	Ecuac	torian, etc. 🛮
	BLACK OR AFRIC	AN AM	l. – Provide deta	ails beli	DW.
	African American		Jamaican		Haitian
	Nigerian	П	Ethiopian	П	Somali
	Print, for example, (3hana i	an, South Africa	n, Bart	badian, etc. д
D	ASIAN - Provide de	etails b	elow.		
	Chinese	П	Filipino	П	Asian Indian
	☐ Vietnamese		Korean	П	Japanese
	Print, for example, I	Pakista	ni, Cambodian,	Hmang	
		772500		02.005	
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	American	T I	Alaska Native		Central or Sou
	Print, for example, I Native Village of Ba	Vavajo	Nation, Blackfe	et Tribe	American India , Mayan, Aztec
	reside vinage of ba	rrow as	upiar, ivome c.s	KIITIO C	onthunity, etc.
П	MIDDLE EASTERN	ORN	ODTH ACRES	N P	wide details to d
h-d	Lebanese	OR N	Iranian	- PW	Egyptian
	Syrian		Moroccan	I	Algerian
	Print, for example, I	sraeli, i		etc. 🗸	
		П			
	NATIVE HAWAIIAN details below.	ORO	THER PACIFIC	ISLAI	NDER - Provide
	Native Hawaiian	П	Samoan	П	Chamorro
	Tongan	П	Fijian	П	Marshallese
	Print, for example, I	Palauar	n, Tahitian, Chui	ukese,	etc. д
П	SOME OTHER RAC	CE. ET	HNICITY, OR O	RIGIN	- Print below. :



Improvements to the 2020 Census Separate Question Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures

2020 Census: Two Separate Questions Design

(origi	E: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic in and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic ins are not races.	7.	t is this person's race? in one or more boxes AND print origins.	
6. 1	s th	is person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?		White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.	
). I		Is person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano Yes, Puerto Rican Yes, Cuban Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc. g		Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.: American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inspirit Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.: Chinese	

We made improvements to question designs, data processing, and coding within the two separate questions design

Elicited much more reporting of detailed racial and ethnic identities 55 million write-ins in 2010 Census **350 million** write-ins in 2020 Census



What 2020 Census Results Tell Us About Persisting Problems with Separate Questions on Race and Ethnicity in the Decennial Census





49.9 million identified as Some Other Race, surpassing Black or African American population as second-largest race group

 45.3 million people of Hispanic or Latino origin were classified as Some Other Race either alone or in combination, compared with only 4.6 million people who were not of Hispanic or Latino origin

33.8 million people reported multiple race groups, up from 9 million in 2010

White and Some Other Race largest combination at 19.3 million

Census Bureau experts are not surprised by the 2020 Census results.

The Some Other Race category is <u>not</u> the problem; The Some Other Race category <u>spotlights</u> the problem with the decennial census two separate questions format.



What 2020 Census Results Tell Us About Persisting Problems with Separate Questions on Race and Ethnicity in the Decennial Census

We are confident that differences in the overall racial distributions are largely due to improvements in the design of the two separate questions for race data collection and processing as well as some demographic changes over the past 10 years.

We are also confident, as shown in our research over the past decade, that using a single combined question for race and ethnicity in the decennial census would ultimately yield an even more accurate portrait of how the U.S. population self-identifies, especially for people who self-identify as multiracial or multiethnic.



Improving Race and Ethnicity Statistics

Where Are We Now?

2022

- Director Robert Santos began his tenure at the Census Bureau
- Census staff continue to develop forthcoming 2020 Census data products
 - Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC), Tentatively 2022
 - Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (Detailed DHC), Date To Be Determined
- Ongoing outreach and engagement about 2020 Census results and future data products





























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- What are the item non-response rates for the two separate race and ethnicity questions?
- What are the race reporting patterns of Hispanic or Latino respondents to the race question?
- Within each minimum category, what are the frequencies of detailed population groups? What percentage do the six largest detailed groups comprise for each major category?
- Using the Census Bureau's Middle Eastern or North African classification, what are the reporting patterns of the MENA population in the race question?



Race and Ethnicity Research Topics to Examine

1. What are the item non-response rates for the two separate race and ethnicity questions?

→	origi	E: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic n and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic ns are not races.	at is this person's race? rk X one or more boxes AND print origins.
6.	Is thi	s person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?	White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.
		No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano	
		Yes, Puerto Rican	Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. 🔀
		Yes, Cuban Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – <i>Print, for</i>	
		example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc. ⊋	American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.
			Chinese



Research Questions: Item Non-Response in 2020 Census

- 1. Are the item non-response rates for the Hispanic origin and Race questions in the 2020 Census similar to the 2010 Census?
- 2. Are people of Hispanic origin (compared to Non-Hispanics) still more likely not to answer the Race question?
- 3. Is the non-response rate to the Race question among Hispanics similar to historical reporting patterns observed in prior Censuses and Census tests (i.e., 2015 National content test)?
- 4. Are the item non-response rates for the Hispanic origin and Race questions in the 2021 American Community Survey similar to the 2020 Census?
- 5. How can the Census Bureau improve item non-response rates in the decennial census and the American Community Survey, particularly among the Hispanic origin population? (separate question format vs. combined question format)



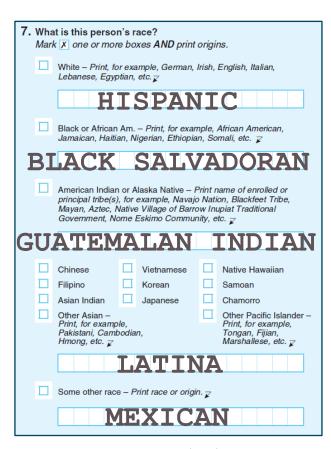
Race and Ethnicity Research Topics to Examine

2. What are the race reporting patterns of Hispanic or Latino respondents to the race question?

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	principal tribe(s) Mayan, Aztec, N	, for Vativ	example, Navajo	Nat	name of enrolled or ion, Blackfeet Tribe, upiat Traditional etc. 🙀
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	Chinese		Vietnamese		Native Hawaiian
	Filipino		Korean		Samoan
	Asian Indian		Japanese		Chamorro
	Other Asian – Print, for examp Pakistani, Camb Hmong, etc. ⊋		ın,		Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. ⊋
		L	ATIN	IZ	
	Some other race	e – F	Print race or origi	n. 📈	
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Hispanic Race Reporting Patterns in 2020 Census



2020 Census Race Question: Hypothetical Hispanic Reporting

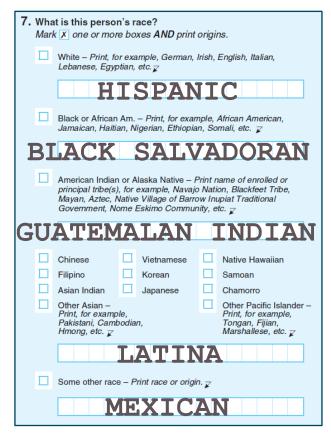
Builds upon Census Bureau research on "Race Reporting Among Hispanics: 2010" to examine race reporting among **self-reported Hispanics** in the 2020 Census to develop supplemental data to the findings already presented in the 2020 Census and the 2015 National Content Test (NCT) Race and Ethnicity Analysis report. Research will provide more in-depth analysis to improve our understanding of how Hispanics reported their racial identity within the improved separate questions design and updated data processing and coding procedures of the 2020 Census.

Research will examine the following four key areas:

- Demographic description of Hispanic population in 2020 Census by itemnonresponse and imputation type
- Race reporting among Hispanics by OMB race groups
- Comparison of race reporting patterns among self-reported Hispanics for 2010 and 2020
- Different response types to race question by selected demographic characteristics and geographies



Research Questions: Hispanic Race Reporting in 2020 Census



2020 Census Race Question: Hypothetical Hispanic Reporting

- 1. How do self-reported Hispanics report their race using the improved 2020 Census race question and how does it compare to 2010 race reporting?
- 2. How do responses to the race question by self-reported Hispanics differ based on their demographic characteristics (e.g., detailed Hispanic origin, sex, age, household type, and tenure)?
- 3. How do responses to the race question by self-reported Hispanics differ by geographic location?



Race and Ethnicity Research Topics to Examine

3. Within each minimum category, what are the frequencies of detailed population groups? What percentage do the six largest detailed groups comprise for each major category?

 NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic origin and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano Yes, Puerto Rican Yes, Cuban Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin − Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, 	7. What is this person's race? Mark X one or more boxes AND print origins. White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. X Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. X
Black or African Am. – Print, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian,	for example, African American, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. 🍞
	Some other race – Print race or origin. ✓



Detailed Reporting in the 2020 Census

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		White Lebar	– Prii nese, l					aem	nan,	Irish	ı, Eı	nglis	h, Ita	alian	,		
		Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.															
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		– ampi amb . ⊋	ole, bodian,						Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. ✓					-			
		Some	other	race	e – P	Print	race	e or	origi	in. 📈							

Highlights of changes to Hispanic origin and race questions, data processing, and coding based on extensive research and outreach over the past decade.

- Dedicated write-in response areas and examples for White category and Black or African American category
- Provided six example groups for "White," "Black or African American," and
 "American Indian or Alaska Native" racial categories (examples represent largest
 population groups within each of the geographically diverse population groups of
 each race category, as defined by 1997 OMB standards).
- Reordered detailed Asian checkboxes and detailed Native Hawaiian or Other
 Pacific Islander checkboxes by population size and changed the checkbox category
 "Guamanian or Chamorro" to "Chamorro" based on research and positive
 stakeholder feedback.
- Increased number of characters captured in write-in line from 30 to 200, which allowed us to capture and fully recognize longer write-in responses.
- Instead of prioritizing multiple responses into only two codes, we coded up to six detailed codes for each write-in area.



Research Questions: Detailed Reporting in 2020 Census

- 1. Are detailed race group distributions reasonable when comparing 2020 Census to 2010 Census and when comparing 2020 Census to 2021 ACS 1-Year data?
- 2. Which detailed race groups experienced the largest change (positive and negative, for percent change) when comparing 2020 Census to 2010 Census? Explain limitations with comparisons, and why they should be made with caution, given the improvements and new data collections for detailed groups.
- 3. Based on 2020 Census data and 2021 ACS 1-Year data: a) What are largest detailed race groups for each major *race alone* category? b) What are largest detailed race groups for each major *race alone or in any combination* category? How do these compare to 2010 Census?
- 4. Are there differences in detailed race groups for *race alone* populations compared to *race alone or in any combination* populations?
- 5. Based on largest detailed race groups for *race alone* populations and *race alone or in any combination* populations, which groups should be included as examples and detailed checkboxes in future data collections?
- 6. If Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) responses are collected in a distinct category in future data collections, which detailed groups should be listed as examples and detailed checkboxes for the White category and for a distinct MENA category?



Race and Ethnicity Research Topics to Examine

4. What do we know about reporting patterns of Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) responses in the 2020 Census race question?

	at is this person		nt origins.
	White - Print, for Lebanese, Egypt		n, Irish, English, Italian,
	L	EBANI	ESE
			rample, African American, pian, Somali, etc. ⊋
	M(OROC	CAN
	principal tribe(s), Mayan, Aztec, Na	for example, Nava	– Print name of enrolled or ajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, urrow Inupiat Traditional nunity, etc. ⊋
	K	URDI	SH
	Chinese	☐ Vietnamese	Native Hawaiian
	Filipino	Korean	Samoan
	Asian Indian	Japanese	Chamorro
	Other Asian – Print, for example Pakistani, Cambo Hmong, etc. ⊋		☐ Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. ⊋
	E	GYPT	IAN
	Some other race	- Print race or ori	igin. 🙀
II	RANIZ	AN A	MERICAN



Research Questions: MENA Reporting in 2020 Census



2020 Census Race Question: Hypothetical MENA Reporting

- 1. How were detailed MENA responses in the Census Bureau's classification reported in the 2020 Census?
 - a. Evaluate which write-in areas detailed MENA responses were reported in, and
 - b. Evaluate which checkboxes were selected when detailed MENA responses were provided.
- 2. Where were detailed groups that are not in the Census Bureau's MENA classification (e.g., Somali, Sudanese, Armenian, etc.) reported?
- 3. What were the largest detailed MENA responses in the 2020 Census? How does this inform recommendations for future data collections?



	WHI	TE - Provide de	etails b	elow.					
		German	П	Irish		English			
		Italian	П	Polish		French			
	Print,	for example, S	cottish	, Norwegian, L	Outoh, e	tc. 🕝			
	HISP	ANIC, LATINO	ORS	PANISH - Pro	vide de	tails below.			
		Mexican or Mexican American		Puerto Rican	П	Cuban			
		Salvadoran		Dominican	П	Colombian			
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П	BI A	CK OR AFRICA	N AM	. – Provide det	ails beli	OW.			
		African		Jamaican	П	Haitian			
	П	American Nigerian	П	Ethiopian	H	Somali			
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		Chinese Vietnamese for example, P		Filipino Korean		Asian India Japanese			
	AME	RICAN INDIAN American Indian	OR A	LASKA NATIV Alaska Native	re – Pro	ovide details Central or American I			
	Print, Nativ	, for example, N re Village of Bar	lavajo row In	Nation, Blackfe upiat, Nome E	et Tribe skimo C	, Mayan, Az community, e			
	MIDE	DLE EASTERN	OR N	ORTH AFRICA	N - Pro	wide details			
		Lebanese	П	Iranian	П	Egyptian			
		Syrian		Moroccan	П	Algerian			
	Print, for example, Israeli, Iraqi, Tunisian, etc. д								
		IVE HAWAIIAN	OR O	THER PACIFIC	CISLA	NDER - Prov			
	П	Native	П	Samoan	П	Chamorro			
	П	Hawaiian Tongan	i	Filian	F	Marshalles			
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Census Bureau Goals for Improving Future Decennial Census and ACS Race and Ethnicity Data

- Address ways to produce more accurate and reliable race and ethnicity data
- Rely upon 2020 Census evidence and extensive research and outreach last decade
- Collaborate with OMB, federal statistical community peers, and external partners

Improving decennial census race and ethnicity data will enable the ACS and other federal surveys to provide more accurate and reliable race and ethnicity data for Federal, state, and tribal programs; ensuring fair and equitable compliance with antidiscrimination laws and regulations; Civil Rights policies; and local governments, community organizations, and academic researchers



Questions for NAC Discussion

- 1. Do you have any questions about what we explained regarding how the 2020 Census results show persisting problems with separate questions on race and ethnicity in the decennial census?
- 2. Do you have additional recommendations for our research explorations of 2020 Census results that would help inform our understanding of these four topics?
- 3. Are there suggestions from NAC members on external groups who the Census Bureau could engage with as we develop and share this research with the public?

